Withdrawal of Appointment By SSC

1773. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY:
SHRIMATI JAYAPARDA NAHATA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the office of the Accountant General, Karnataka have refused to issue appointment order for the post of clerks to 19 persons who were recommended by the Staff Selection Commission for appointment on the basis of the clerks grade examination conducted by them in 1996;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon;

(c) whether these appointments were cancelled at last moment due to some pressure from certain quarters; and

(d) if so, the reasons behind the cancellation of these appointment orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) The Staff Selection Commission is an independent recruiting body for selecting and allotting candidates to various Group *'C* posts in Central Government offices based on competitive examinations.

As there was inordinate delay in the Appointment of 19 candidates allocated to the Office of Accountant General, Karnataka for appointment as Lower Division Clerk on the basis of the Clerks Grade Examination, 1996 held by Staff Selection Commission*, their nominations were withdrawn and they were renominated to other Central Government offices located in Karnataka.

Supply of Items to Kendriya Bhandar

1774. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kendriya Bhandar is resorting to all sorts of uncalled for practices not followed by the Super Bazar and are asking the suppliers to make branch to branch supplies to items;

(b) whether making of supplies to branch stores leaves much scope of supply of inferior quality items and nexus between the suppliers and the employees; and

(c) the steps taken to stop the practice forthwith and to deliver the stocks themselves to their branch stores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Bulk of goods are procured by Kendriya Bhandar centrally and supplied to the stores through the godowns. However, as per the approved policy, some items, are supplied direct to the stores by the approved manufacturers/suppliers after getting the requirements and on getting the purchase order approved by the Head Office. Only packed items carrying the warranty by the suppliers about the quality are supplied direct to the stores. The goods supplied are also sent for quality control test in the laboratory on random basis to ensure quality. This marketing and inventory management practice has been found suitable and advantageous to Kendriya Bhandar and there is no proposal to change it.

Composite Method of Recruitment

1775. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a composite

method of recruitment in Central Government;

(b) in the composite method, where a post is filled by deputation on transfer, is the departmental candidate to be afforded an opportunity to be considered for the post at the end of deputation;

(c) when a deputation is extended, is it required to afford opportunity to departmental candidate before first extension or before each new extension; and

(d) whether as per the Department of Personnel & Training guidelines of 18th March, 1988 the term "Prescribed period" means the period of initial deputation or does it include any extension granted to the deputationist?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Whenever a post is required to be filled by the composite method of recruitment, the departmental candidate, if elgible, is to be considered alongwith outsiders. If the departmental candidate is selected for appointment to the post, it is treated as having been filled by promotion; otherwise, the post is to be filled by deputation for the prescribed period at the end of which departmental officer is again afforded an opportunity to be considered for appointment to the post.

(c) The Administrative Ministry/ Department have to ensure that there is no eligible departmental candidate before granting first extension of deputation and also before each new extension.

(d) In the DOP&T guidelines dated 18th March, 1988 the term "Prescribed period" means the period of initial deputation only and does not include any extension granted to the deputationist.

Press Briefing by Secretaries/Ministers

1776. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued a directive/circular to all Minis ters/Departments permitting only the Secretaries/Minister to interact with the Press;

(b) if so, the reasons/background therefor;

(c) whether the practice of Press Brief ing by Principal Information Officer on Government decision/policies has been discontinued, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what efforts Government have made to ensure transparency in gover nance and right to information for gener al public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KANDAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instances of non-observance of the provisions of Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, relating to contact with the Press and airing of view on official matters through Press by Government Servants had come to the notice of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) With the view to introducing greater transparency and openness in functioning of Government and public bodies, the Government have constituted a working Group on 'Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government' under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The working Group submitted its report to the Government on 21st May, 97 recommending inter-alia the enanctment of 'Freedom of Information Act' by the Parliament. The recom-